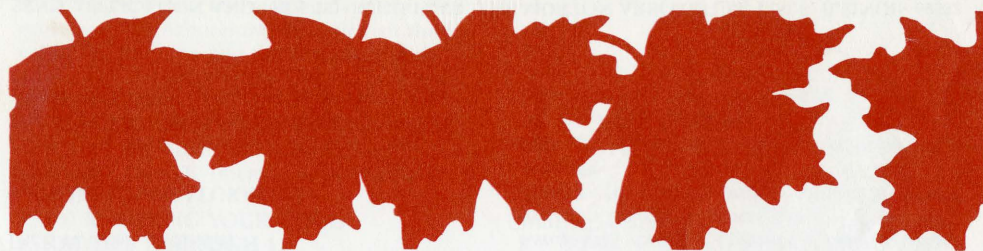


# AUTUMN 1983

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## EVENTS, NEWS, & CLASSES



## The Morton Arboretum



# EVENTS

## SOMETHING NEW FOR YOU

This first issue of *Events, News, & Classes* will serve several needs which previously were met through two separate publications: The *Program of Educational Activities* and the *Members' Newsletter*. To provide an at-a-glance reference, this convenient new format lists all classes requiring fees and registration. Special events, some requiring fees and registration, are listed in the Events section. News, including feature stories, is presented in the next fold-out section.

This new publication is part of an effort to upgrade our publication program in order to better serve the information needs of our members and the visiting public. We hope you find it useful, and we welcome your comments. Please send your comments to: Editor, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL 60532.

## PLANT IDENTIFICATION DAY

Bring your unknown plants to the Herbarium on the third floor of the new Research Center on Saturday, **September 24**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and test the Herbarium staff as you find out more about what's growing around your home and elsewhere. Specimens with flowers or fruit will be helpful, but we will try to help you with anything you bring. All kinds of plants are welcome, but please, no more than two plants per person. There is no fee other than the \$2 gate fee to non-members.

## BLUEGRASS AT THORNHILL

If you are a fan of traditional bluegrass music, you are in for a rare treat. On Saturday, **August 20**, at 6:30 p.m., HighCross Road Band, one of Illinois' finest bluegrass bands, will perform in concert in the Audubon Room at the Thornhill Conference Center, on the Arboretum's west side.

The first 200 tickets will be sold by mail to members at \$4 each. If the weather cooperates, however, the concert will be



HighCross Road Band

held outdoors with the band playing from the Thornhill patio. Since we will be able to accommodate a greater number of people on the Thornhill lawn, we will then sell additional tickets at the west gate to members and the general public at \$5 each. The decision on whether to move outdoors will be made on the day of the concert. Call 968-0074 after noon on August 20 for a concert update.

HighCross Road Band is a magical mix of musicians of incredible versatility from backgrounds in several musical traditions. Randy McCabe (guitar) played with the internationally known University of Illinois Jazz Band before finding a home in bluegrass. His brother Ken (bass) is an experienced solo folk performer in the Chicago area and an accomplished bluegrass bassist. Louise Brody (fiddle) has played in the first violin section of several sym-

phony orchestras and has performed at the White House before turning her talents to bluegrass. Wally Vespoel (mandolin) taught at the Old Town School of Folk Music for six years and is a veteran bluegrass performer. Doug Covington (banjo), also steeped in bluegrass, is the reigning Illinois State Banjo Champion. With such talent on hand, you will want to order your tickets early.

Picnicking will be allowed in fair weather on the lawn behind Thornhill beginning at 5 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic and stay for the concert. Only those with tickets will be allowed to picnic.

**To order tickets**, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Bluegrass, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL 60532. We will mail tickets back to you. Be sure to order before August 15.

## BONSAI EXHIBIT AT THORNHILL

Plan to attend the Arboretum's Second Annual Bonsai Show at the Thornhill Conference Center on Saturday and Sunday, **September 24 and 25**, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The show is sponsored by the Morton Arboretum Bonsai Society and Triton College Bonsai Club. Attractions will include a large roomful of locally grown miniature trees, demonstrations of the techniques used in growing bonsai, and other activities. Stock plants will be for sale.

This event has been purposely scheduled for the weekend when the Fall Festival would ordinarily occur. Fall Festival now is scheduled for every other year. Come and enjoy the Arboretum's festival of small trees and fall color instead.



Photograph by Charles Flora

Photograph by Ivan Watters



BEHIND THE SCENES – GARDENING

Seven specially selected areas in the Arboretum are set aside and maintained as display gardens where visitors may study and compare plants for use in their home landscapes or simply enjoy the serenity they offer. The beauty of these landscape collections is something most visitors take for granted, and their tranquility belies the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes in their maintenance.

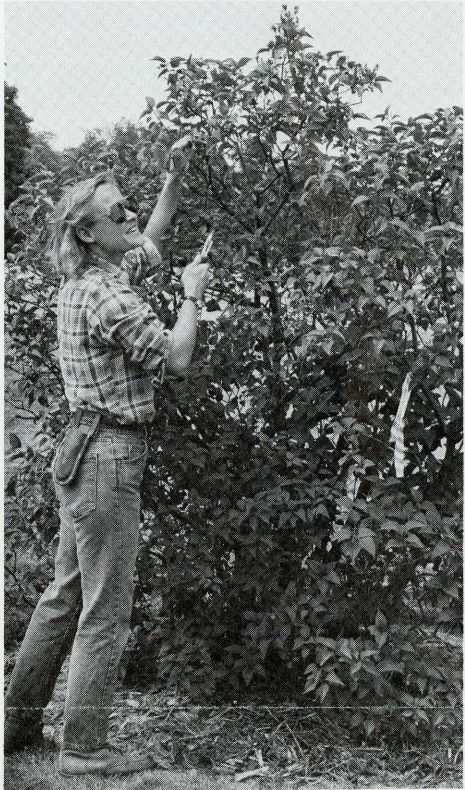
Just south of the Visitor Center, a series of display gardens stretches to the southern boundary of the Arboretum fronting on the East-West Tollway; other display gardens highlight buildings, parking areas, and paths. We would like you to become acquainted with these areas and the gardeners who care for them.

In the first of these areas accessible via a path leading south from the Visitor Center, herbaceous and woody landscape plants can be found in Ground Cover Garden tended by John Swisher. John, a knowledgeable gardener with years of experience, conducts tours of the garden as part of the Arboretum's education program. In these educational tours, offered periodically during the growing season, John provides information on ground covers for area homeowners and other interested gardeners.

The neatly trimmed Hedge Garden, just south of the Ground Covers, offering over 120 different kinds of woody plants displayed in aesthetic hedge forms, is continually cared for by Tony Byrne. Since hedges give formal definition to an area and are not especially valued for their flowers, Tony's main efforts are spent in trimming and shaping. Since this is one of the world's largest formal hedge displays, Tony's Hedge Garden is one of the Arboretum's main show pieces.

In an area south of the Hedge Garden, Bill Bergman, the Arboretum's garden-crew leader, maintains the Dwarf Shrub Garden consisting of three sand beds (designed for plants that

grow best in sandy soil) and eight dwarf shrub beds. Two formal perennial beds of peonies and chrysanthemums add color and floral interest to the area. Bill's garden is situated on a gentle slope overlooking Firefly Pond, the new little pond just behind the Research Center, and is destined to be one of the highlights of a new horticultural walk now in the planning stages.



Photograph by John Kohout

Sandi DeFrank in the Lilac Collection

South of the Dwarf Shrub Garden and fronting the Tollway, the handiwork of George Kostal can be seen in the many finely trimmed arrangements of evergreens that make up the Juniper Collection. Keeping the junipers outlined and their borders edged is a constant project for George. His garden presents an attractive sight for visitors approaching from the Tollway.



Photograph by William S. Stickney

The Juniper Collection

Caring for the landscape plantings that highlight the Visitor Center, the Administration Building, the parking lots and the clover leaf from Route 53, is the responsibility of George Shabel. George's gardening requires him to work with woody plants of all sizes from hawthorns to witch-hazels to flowering quinces in some of the most visible and heavily trafficked areas of the Arboretum. Many flowering trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants accent these areas.

The Lilac Collections, southeast of the Visitor Center on the east side, and in Godshalk Meadow on the west side, are under the care of Sandi DeFrank. Caring for the more than 225 lilacs in the two collections is a big job, one that requires a great deal of Sandi's attention during the growing season. Among other responsibilities, Sandi must make sure that all blossoms are pruned and cleared away after spring blooming to assure an attractive appearance.

Flowers are also the main attraction and concern in the work of John Sosnowski, who is in charge of the perennial gardens that border Joy Path and the Thornhill Conference Center. The spectacular displays of day lilies, peonies, and irises are the result of John's patient attention to detail in thinning out and keeping the flower clusters looking their best. John also conducts classes on tours of his garden periodically during the growing season.

While there is great diversity in the types of plants each gardener works with, there are some basic similarities in the work each does in the garden. Spring planting, weeding, edging of borders and aesthetic pruning beginning in April and carrying on throughout the growing season are tasks common to all the gardeners. The ultimate goal of each is to provide Arboretum visitors with the pleasure of seeing the garden collections at their viewing best.

On your next trip to the Arboretum, be sure to visit and get acquainted with these garden areas. One of the main purposes of these gardens is to help our public to know and use the plants on display there. And you might just run into a gardener with some interesting tips to share.

Mike Spravka

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

*Library Circulation Desk:* Help is needed on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. to assist Library patrons. Since business is usually slow, the work is well-suited for an avid reader or a responsible student.

*Photographer:* The Herbarium's curator is seeking an individual with advanced photography and mechanical skills to develop procedures and implement a photographic study of floral colors perceived by bees. The hours are flexible, but we prefer someone who can come in on weekdays.

Please call the Volunteer Office at 968-0074 for more information about these and other volunteer opportunities available at the Arboretum.

VOLUNTEERS FIGHT TENT CATERPILLARS

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon for a three-week period during May, a dozen volunteers could be found in the Malus Collection removing eastern tent caterpillars from the Arboretum's extensive Crabapple Collection of over 680 trees.

After conducting a count of egg masses last winter, Tom Green, our pathologist, determined that the caterpillar would not be as abundant this summer as it was last year. Tom decided to take this opportunity to experiment with a different type of control strategy in combatting the pest. With the encouragement of Charles Lewis, Collections Group Administrator, Tom approached Marilyn Halperin in the Volunteer Office with the idea of forming a group of volunteers to hand remove the pests. Although it was impossible to remove 100 percent of the pests by this method, the volunteers were able to remove more of the tents than would have been possible if a chemical control agent had been used.

The project saved the Collections Group valuable time and the cost of chemicals, but more importantly, beneficial and neutral insects and nesting birds were not subjected to the hazards of chemical sprays.

Members of the volunteer group, who called themselves "The Posse", were Dick Young, Lawrence Reed, Dee Tevonian, Keith and Sue Meiser, Sharon Hanson, John Martens, Carolyn Henry, Charles Brigham, Fred Hautz, Floss Staerk, Sabine Huhndorf, and John Anderson. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done.

NEW VIGOR FOR OLD PLANTS

Plant propagation by seed and cutting is a major responsibility of the Arboretum's propagation crew. Seeds for propagation are obtained mainly through collecting trips by Arboretum personnel or are ordered from seed exchange lists published by arboreta and botanic gardens around the world. Seeds are collected from our grounds only when there is little chance of hybridization, that is, when we have only one species of a genus in our collections, as with the Katsura tree *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*. In contrast to cuttings, most seeds are relatively easy to propagate.

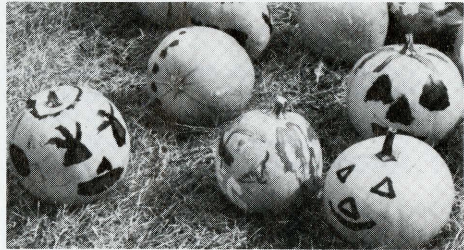
Propagation by cuttings in many cases is much more difficult and is done mainly to preserve the genetic integrity of older plants in our collections. Most of the cuttings are collected on our grounds. Many of our plants, because of their advanced age, have lost vigor and do not root easily. This is especially true of trees. These physiologically old plants lack some of the chemical makeup that make younger or more juvenile specimens so much easier to propagate. A good example of this principle is the rare and beautiful, trifoliate paperbark maple, *Acer griseum*. Two to three year old plants of this species will root in fairly high percent-

ages, while plants 10 to 15 years old are virtually impossible to root.

We are trying a new procedure that in theory will produce vigorous new plants from old specimens. The procedure involves grafting the older plants onto seedling understock. This young rootstock should pass on its vigor to the grafted plant, making it also physiologically juvenile and easier to propagate.

If our theory is correct, the Arboretum will be able to propagate and thus keep the *Magnolia denudata* plant we received in 1937, along with many other of our older living treasures.

Kris Bachtell



Photograph by William S. Stickney

LOOK FOR FALL FESTIVAL AGAIN IN 1984

The Arboretum's Fall Festival is now scheduled to occur every other year. Although this is our most popular public event, and while we enjoy the change of pace, the lively fair atmosphere, and the public contact this festival brings, we can not continue to offer such an ambitious event on a yearly basis. Because the scope of Fall Festival has broadened so dramatically over the years, it has placed enormous additional demands for time and creative energy upon our staff, and has taxed the limits of our facilities as well. Meanwhile, we have scheduled such events as the bluegrass concert and the Bonsai Exhibit at Thornhill to bridge the gap. See you at the Festival in 1984.

YULETIDE CELEBRATION

Join us for our seventh annual Yuletide Celebration on Monday, **December 26** (a holiday), at 2:15 p.m. This celebration has become one of the major holiday events in the west suburban area. Join the Yule log hunt in the brisk December air. The finders of the log are garlanded and treated to a ride astride the log back to the Visitor Center for the Ceremonial log burning. Wassail will be served in the courtyard. A program of madrigal singing and other activities make this a program you won't want to miss. Watch your local newspapers and the bulletin board in the Visitor Center courtyard for details about this popular public event.

DEER PROBLEM CONTINUES

The Arboretum's collections continue to suffer damage from deer browsing on young plants. Three new collections areas, the Northern Illinois Collection on the east side and the Rhamnales and Celastrales Collections on the west side, have been especially hard hit by the deer because they contain many young plants newly placed on the grounds. In spring the deer like to browse on the buds of young trees, and in fall they use pliable young trees to scrape off velvet, a soft vascular skin that envelops and nourishes developing antlers.

Collections personnel are now hanging soap from the plants in these areas in an effort to repel the deer. The idea for using soap as a repellent comes to us from southern Illinois where fruit orchard owners have been using it of late. The owners report better success with soap than with any other repellent they have tried in the past.

The Hilton and Sheraton Inns in Naperville, and some of our members were kind enough to donate discarded bars of soap to the Arboretum for use in this project.

WEEKEND WALKS, TOURS & ACTIVITIES

STAFF-LED WALKS MOVE TO SATURDAY MORNINGS

Take this opportunity to get to know some of our staff members as they lead walks to various parts of the Arboretum. Walks will leave from the Information Building beginning at 10:30 a.m., ending at noon. 50¢ per person (paid to the leader on the day of the walk).

**September 10** – Tour the World in the Geographic Collections: Karla Patterson, Visitor Program Coordinator. **September 24** – Hunting for Fungi: Dick Wason, Naturalist. **October 1** – Landscape Art: Nancy Hart, Artist. **October 8** – Plants for Landscaping: Kris Bachtell, Plant Propagator. **October 22** – The Arboretum – an Outdoor Museum: Charles Lewis, Collections Administrator. **October 29** – Autumn Waterfowl: Floyd Swink, Taxonomist.

SATURDAY NATURE RAMBLES

Nature Rambles are short, casual walks beginning at 1 p.m. from the Visitor Center courtyard. Wear comfortable clothing. 50¢ per person, no large groups please.

Leaders: Arboretum Naturalist-Guides. **September 3** – Prairie. **September 17** – Tree Identification. **October 1** – Fruits and Seeds. **October 15** – Fall Color.

SUNDAYS "AROUND THE ARBORETUM"

Join us for a stroll around the Arboretum's major facilities and collections. Find out about the different departments and activities. Walk through a variety of landscapes. These hour-and-a-half programs begin at 2 p.m. in the Visitor Center courtyard. **September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23.** 50¢ per person. Leaders: Arboretum Naturalist-Guides.

OPEN-AIR BUS SCHEDULE

View the autumn color from our open-air bus through a variety of scenic landscapes. Experienced guides are on board to interpret the history and functions of the Arboretum while focusing on the seasonal highlights. Tickets are \$1.50 and may be purchased at the Information Building on the day of the tour. **September** – 17 and 24, at 1 and 2 p.m. **October** – Monday through Friday at 1 and 2 p.m.; Saturdays at 12, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE DAY – SEPTEMBER 18

Sunday, **September 18**, has been set aside by the State to commemorate its prairies. In celebration of Prairie Day, we will present several tours of our restored prairie along with some informational displays at the Visitor Center. Tours every hour from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.. 50¢ per person at the Information Building. Set aside this date and join us in praise of prairies.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

An informal group of book enthusiasts meets every other month on a Sunday at 2:15 p.m. in the Sterling Morton Library to discuss books of current interest or classical significance. Topics are selected according to the wishes of the group, and new members are always welcome. For information, call Carol Doty at 968-0074, extension 44. This fall's activities are: **September 18:** *Travels of William Bartram* (Peregrine Smith paperback 1980, or whatever modern edition of this 1791 work is available to you). Leader, Ian MacPhail. **November 13:** Donald Culross Peattie: *Special emphasis on Green Laurels: The Lives and Achievements of the Great Naturalists* (out of print). Please bring a selection to share – from Peattie or about the naturalists. Leader, Margaret Jenkins.



Photograph by John Kohout

Left to right: George Shabel, John Swisher, John Sosnowski, George Kostal, Tony Byrne, Bill Bergman, Sandi DeFrank.

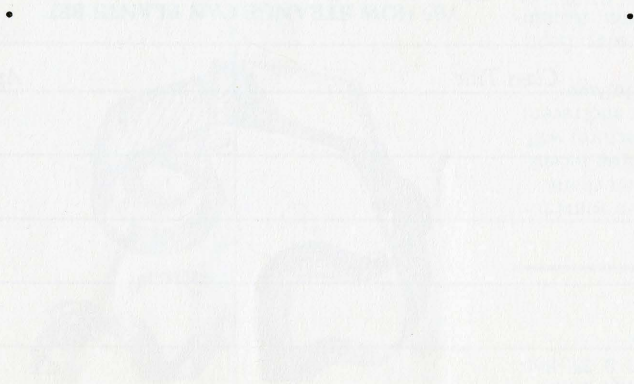






THE MORTON ARBORETUM  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532

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